

□

Award provides returning Veterans with a full scholarship for their Associates Degree

August 27, 2009

MEDIA, PA – Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07) joined with John Strayer, President of the Pennsylvania Institute of Technology (P.I.T.), to award the inaugural PA 7th Congressional District – Pennsylvania Institute of Technology Veterans Scholarship to Larry Woodsley, an Air Force Veteran from Upper Darby, PA.

Announced in April 2009, the Veterans Scholarship program was developed as a response to the important role education plays in the reintegration and future success of returning Veterans. The new initiative provides full scholarships to earn an associate's degree for as many qualified Veterans as can be accommodated by select programs at P.I.T. To be eligible, the applicant must have served in the military since September 11, 2001, and must be a resident of the 7th Congressional District.

“Too often our Veterans do not receive the welcome home they deserve,” said Congressman Sestak. “They should return from defending our Nation, especially in the wake of 9/11, not just to our gratitude, but also to practical support and guidance. These brave men and women are not looking for a hand out but for an opportunity to move forward and succeed as they transition

from military to civilian life. I am proud that by supporting this scholarship, we are providing that opportunity to the Veterans of the 7th Congressional District. I applaud the Pennsylvania Institute of Technology for their commitment to our Veterans.”

Joining Congressman Sestak and President Strayer today were three members of the scholarship committee: Thomas Reed, former U.S. Marine Corps officer and Professor at Widener University School of Law; Chris Young, former U.S. Army Ranger, cancer survivor, and founder of Ranger for a Cure; and Jack Dixon, a Veteran of Air Force Intelligence and Admissions Representative and the Veterans Affairs Liaison at the Pennsylvania Institute of Technology. Other members of the selection committee are: Marsha Four, Chairwoman of the Nation Women’s Veterans Committee who served in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps during the Vietnam War; and Shawn Diggory, former U.S. Marine Corps Sergeant and Veteran of Operation Desert Storm.

The Pennsylvania Institute of Technology is a private, two-year, not-for-profit College, accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. Located in Media, P.I.T. offers two-year associate degree programs in a variety of disciplines, a dual admission agreement with Drexel University for completion of a bachelor degree upon graduation from P.I.T., and transfer agreements to many colleges and universities.

Eligibility Requirements for the 7th Congressional District – P.I.T. Veterans Scholarship Include:

- Must have served in the military since 9/11/2001
- Service may have begun prior to 9/11/2001
- Does not have to have served in Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan) or Operation Iraqi Freedom
- Can be Active, Reserve, or National Guard duty

- Must have been honorably discharged or currently serving
- Must be a resident of the PA 7th Congressional District
- Must be eligible to receive full Pell and PHEAA funding
- Must meet P.I.T. entrance requirements
- Must enroll in one of the following programs:
- Architectural/Civil Engineering Technology
- Computer and Communication Technology
- Computer Software and Information Technology
- Mechanical Engineering Technology

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, the Congressman was the first Director of Deep Blue, the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the Global War on Terrorism. He served as President Clintons Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Congressman Sestak is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.